9596 CM-2/C1

THE LITERACY MATERIALS

BULLETIN

13

Spring 1996

• instructors • tutors • learners • administrators • coordinators • librarians • resource centres • learning centres •

Is the *Literacy Materials Bulletin* reviewing the type of material that readers want? How do you make use of the *Bulletin*? Do you have any suggestions for improving the *Bulletin*? In this issue, the Committee asks its readers to let them know what they are doing right and wrong. There is a postcard to allow you to make any corrections to your mailing label or the number of copies you want, while giving us feedback that can let us serve our readers better and provide information for our funders. Please return your cards by the end of April.

For 1996-1997 the National Literacy Secretariat and Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, B.C. are once again our major funders. The Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation is paying for the keyboarding and printing.

The Literacy Materials Committee welcomes two new members in this issue. Jan Weiten is an instructor at Vancouver Community College's King Edward Campus. Evelyn Battell is an instructor at Malaspina University College in Duncan and a producer of literacy materials.

This will be the first *Literacy Materials Bulletin* without a review contributed by Laurie Gould. Laurie did a wonderful job of chairing the Committee and publishing the last six issues of the *Bulletin*. She has inspired us with her cheerful efficiency and her ability to fill many roles: accomplished instructor, producer of literacy materials and a major contributor to many literacy projects including the brochures for the Association of B.C. Book Publishers. Laurie's hard work and experience will be missed by the Literacy Materials Committee Members and *Bulletin* readers.

The Committee is assisting Literacy B.C. and the National Literacy Secretariat in a new project. This electronic communications project should streamline communications between Committee members and with other literacy organizations. This experience may lead us to advertise the *Literacy Materials Bulletin* and get feedback from our readers through the Internet and E-Mail.

Helen Thomas

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Title:	How to Get the Job You Want/Relax and Enjoy Your Life
Author:	Carol Thompson
Publisher:	Saara Publications
Available:	Saara Publications, 2252 Dogwood Lane, Atlanta, GA, USA 30345
Price:	$7.95US plus $1.50 for first book and $.75 for each additional book at Book Rate and $3.00 per book Air Mail. Orders must be prepaid by cheque or money order in US$.
ISBN:	0-9627448-5-9/0-9627448-4-0
Level:	functional
Reviewer:	Iris Strong

How to Get the Job You Want

How to Get the Job You Want is an excellent starting place when beginning a career search. This handy guide begins by emphasizing the importance of knowing your strengths, skills, and interests, and feeling good about who you are. It advocates talking to people who have a particular job and hearing what they like and dislike about the job, as well as where they got their training. Volunteering is suggested as a way to gain valuable experience. In resume-writing, the importance of neatness, accuracy and stressing the positive are emphasized. In the actual job-search, the rules are: be prepared, and do not get discouraged; go directly to companies, ask friends and family, answer newspaper ads, go to employment agencies, ask teachers and counselors, and KEEP AT IT! Both in the job application, and in the interview, selling yourself by keeping positive is stressed.

The layout of this manual is good: the white space, bold headings, large type and clear writing make it easy to follow. Unfortunately, it is not Canadian so references to "Social Security Number" or "state" need correcting for our learners.

All in all, I endorse the book. I applaud the underlying philosophy of focusing on the positive, and the necessity for continued learning in order to find success. One student said, "I highly recommend this book for anybody that needs words of encouragement and inspiration." Another said, "I think young people can read this book and it will change their attitudes."

Relax and Enjoy Your Life

All reports on this attractive little manual are excellent! The eleven short chapters offer valuable information for identifying stress and making healthy personal choices for stress reduction. Included are the importance of exercise, good nutrition, knowing how to play, knowing how to relax, and creating time for oneself by planning ahead. Each chapter can be a valuable springboard to class discussion of personal experiences.

This book is easy to read. It makes ample use of white space and has good sized print. Headings are catchy, bold, and often in the form of a question, while points are made and helpful hints are given in brief phrase lists for easy reference. Delightful graphics enhance the text, and several of the chapters end in a charming affirmative poem which students enjoy.

Three relaxation exercises are explained in detail, and all students report benefits. "This book is magnificent and I would love to have one at home for if things go bad or I need to relax." "This book is good for you because it relaxes you, and it is a healthy book. It is a happy book too!"

From *How to Get the Job You Want* by Carol Thompson
Reproduced by kind permission of Saara Publications

Sample Page

6

Take A Picture of Your Life

Many employers want you to have a resume. What is a resume? It is a picture of your life on a piece of paper. It tells the employer:

- what you can do
- what you have done
- what you know
- what kind of job you want

A resume will not get you a job. What it will do is:

- let you sort out all your SKILLS.
- let you have a piece of paper to give to employers when they ask for it.
- make you look more professional.
- helps you get an interview with the employer.

Title:	Oxford Bookworms, Black Series Stages 1-6
Publisher:	Oxford University Press
Available:	Oxford University Press, 70 Wynford Drive, Don Mills, ON, M3C 1J9 Phone: 1-800-387-3820
Price:	$6.95 each
Level:	basic/functional/independent
Reviewer:	Jan Weiten

Oxford Bookworms

Oxford Bookworms consists of both original stories and adaptations. There are six stages of reading levels which range from basic (Stage 1) through to very challenging (Stage 6). Many, but not all, of the titles are available on cassettes.

The Oxford Bookworms Series has excellent black and white illustrations. The quality of the writing is high in all levels of the series. Each book includes a short glossary, comprehension questions, and language exercises. The activities encourage learners to write imaginative compositions and dialogues. The type is fairly small, but the books have high-interest subject matter that motivates readers to keep on reading to find out "what happens next." Another quality of the books that students appreciate is that they look and feel like "real" books. Though there are exercises at the back of each one, the book itself does not look like a textbook.

This review focuses on several titles which learners have enjoyed. The first of these, The Elephant Man (Stage 1), recounts the story of John Merrick, a man who is born in nineteenth century England with gross physical deformities. This book conveys the abstract concepts of prejudice and loneliness, even though the language it uses is simple. One student went to the library to research John Merrick's life and disease. Other students commented: "It made me realize not to feel sorry for myself." "They treated him bad because he looked ugly. He wasn't ugly inside but they were."

Another true story that learners enjoy is Grace Darling (Stage 2). It is refreshing to have a nonfiction book where the central personality is a heroic woman, and the thrilling plot keeps readers interested. "Her mother said Grace was 'only a girl' but she was a hero too." "She was afraid but she did what she had to do."

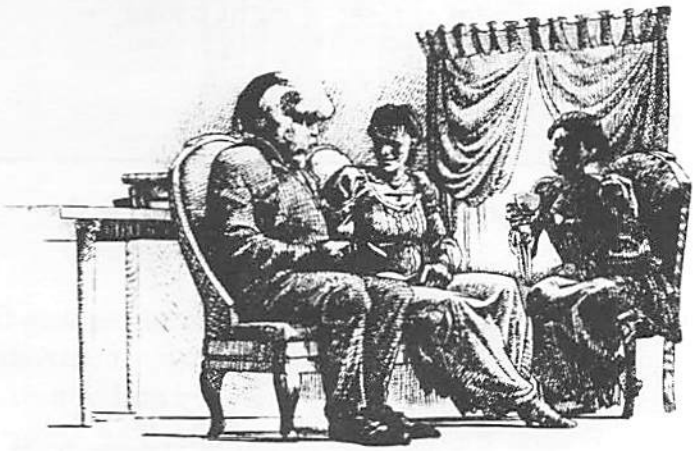
A third book that learners liked is The Picture of Dorian Gray (Stage 3), an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic. This book kept them engaged and entertained throughout.

In The Year of Sharing (Stage 2), a science fiction story, students liked the way the teenage boy changed as he came into contact with nature and wildlife. "It made a person think of what it would be like as an animal. It made me think about how I will treat wildlife."

Selections from the Bookworms Series work well when used with individuals or with groups. There are many titles to choose from, and reader response is enthusiastic. Enjoy!

From *The Elephant Man* by Tim Vicary
Reproduced by kind permission of Oxford University Press

Sample Page



For the first time in his life, Merrick had some friends.

him and shook his hand again before she left.

'Dr Treves,' he said to me that night. 'That lady was wonderful! My mother smiled at me once, many years ago, but no women smile at me now. But this lady smiled at me too, and she shook my hand! A beautiful lady smiled at me and shook my hand!'

My young lady friend came again the next week, and talked to Merrick for half an hour. The week after that, she came again with a friend. They gave him some books, and had a cup of tea with him. It was wonderful for him. For the first time in his life, he had some friends. He was a very happy man. He sat in his room, and read his books, and said no more about living on a lighthouse.

Title:	Specter Series
Author:	Anita Jackson
Publisher:	Fearon/Janus/Quercus
Available:	Maryanne Bozich, Simon & Shuster 5550 West 74th Street, Indianapolis, IN, USA Tel. 1-800-242-7272(Fearon Teacher Aid Centre)
Price:	$42.75US for the set of eight books
Level:	basic/functional
Reviewer:	Katie Molloy

★★ Specter Series ★★

Very few good short novels are written at the basic/functional level. If you haven't discovered the Specter Series yet, you should try it. It is an excellent introduction to chapter books for the beginning adult reader. There are 8 titles in the series:

- Dreams
- '57 T-Bird
- A Deadly Game
- The Actor
- No Rent to Pay
- Homecoming
- The Ear
- ZB4

These 8 pocketbooks are between 30 and 60 pages long and contain 8 to 12 chapters each. Print size is good and the chapters are brief enough for readers to complete within a short time. Because each chapter is introduced by an ever increasing jig-saw puzzle, many readers are tempted to read on to fit yet another piece into the puzzle. One student said, "I couldn't put the book down until I had all the pieces in place."

This series was first published in the seventies. It introduces the reader to the mystery and supernatural genres. For example, The Actor tells the story of a young man whose acting career is intriguingly kicked off by a dead uncle. Students greatly enjoy the weird twists found in each book! "This was the first book I ever read," said a student, "and I never expected it would be so strange." Another student, after reading '57 T-Bird, asked, "Are there more like it?" He went on to read three more books in the series.

When being introduced to this series, readers should be mindful of the old adage "Never judge a book by its cover", as many a reader has been put off by the bizarre sleeves of these books, only to find out later how engaging the read was.

Beginning adult readers will be amazed by, yet greatly enjoy these short, easy-to-read stories. "They have stood the test of time," said one instructor. I am recommending you add these relatively inexpensive titles to your library and encourage your students to try them.

★★★★ GOLDEN OLDIE ★★★★

From *'57 T-Bird* by Anita Jackson
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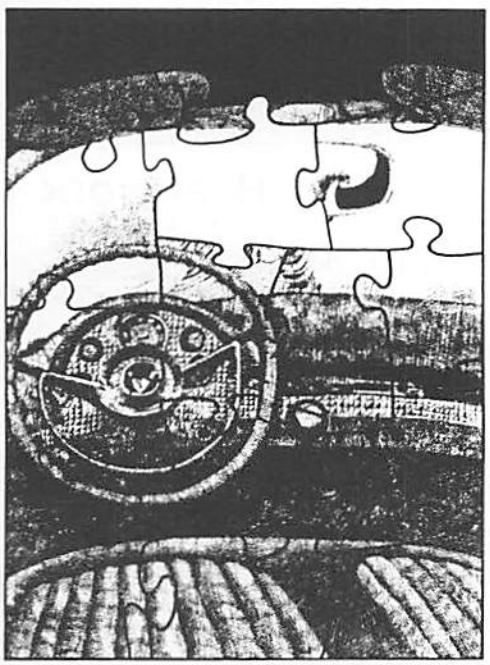
Sample Page



9 The Grip of Death

At first there was no voice, just the sound of the engine humming softly. I had to drive with care. It was a bad night. The windows kept fogging over, and it was hard to see the road. The smell of perfume was very strong.

30

Title:	Headwork, Books 1-5
Publisher:	Oxford University Press
Author:	Chris Culshaw and Deborah Waters
Available:	Oxford University Press, 70 Wynford Drive, Don Mills, ON M3C 1J9 Phone: 1-800-387-8020 Fax: 1-800-665-1771
Price:	$13.00
ISBN:	198333722 (Book 1)
Level:	basic and up
Reviewer:	Evelyn Battell

Headwork

If you have been looking for books to practice critical thinking skills without elaborate reading, the Headwork series may be for you. I have found this series really stretches students' ability to figure things out and talk about their reasoning. The exercises include filling in charts that classify animals...matching pictures with sentences ...describing events...reading maps...putting story events in order.

My students like them:

•They are particularly good for a group of 3 or 4 because we talk about why our answers are right. Students report that they really make you think.

•Most of the pages focus on adults; women appear in various roles including carpenter and stunt woman and people of all races appear.

•Written instructions are clear and because all pages contain good line drawings that are central to the exercise, written instructions can be minimal.

•Most pages in Book 1 involve copying words from the page to answer questions, occasionally making up a sentence or two of dialogue. We have gone beyond the exercises and written in response to the work in the book. By Book 3 there are short descriptive writing exercises. By Book 5 exercises are elaborate.

On the other hand:

•The books have a lot of British content - my classes usually have at least one ex-Brit in them so we have help with words like "lorry" and "jumper".

•The upper level books have some pages that include teens' concerns such as being late for school. (Note: A second series, English Headwork, is definitely for teens.)

•There are a few pages that involve fantasizing about space creatures which never interest my students much.

•Pages that involve drawing something from a description are not popular.

So Book 1 is an especially valuable book for work with small groups of beginning readers. Each subsequent book involves more difficult reading although there are only 300-400 words on a page. The books don't have to be written in and can be used over and over. We tried different exercises and often the students looked ahead for another similar exercise. In Book 1, each activity takes 5 to 20 minutes: exercises in Book 5 are considerably longer.

I find students remember an exercise they have done, even up to a year previous, and are pleased to tell others how to figure it out!

Sample Page

From *Headwork, Book 1* by C. Culshaw and D. Waters
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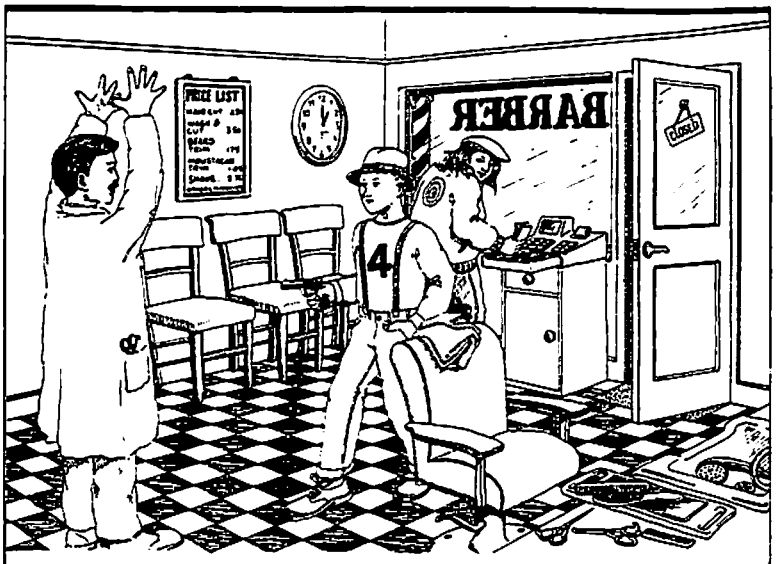
ROBBERY



What to do

Are the sentences true (T) or false (F) or is there not enough evidence (NEE)?
Write your answers like this: 1. True

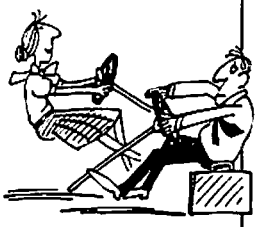
1. There are two robbers.
2. One of the robbers is taking money from the till.
3. Both the robbers are wearing hats.
4. Both the robbers are holding guns.
5. It is a pet shop.
6. One of the robbers has a fast car.
7. There are four chairs in the shop.
8. The robber with the gun has two children.
9. The robbers are wearing shorts.
10. The shopkeeper has his hands in the air.

DEDUCTION

16

PEOPLE

B



C

E

F

What to do

Match the pictures with the writing.
Write your answers like this: 1. F

1. Here are two people. They are having a drink.
2. Here are a man and a woman. They are making a lot of noise.
3. These two people are cutting down a tree.
4. These people have lost their cars!
5. This man is drawing his friend.
6. Here is an old woman and her husband. They are waiting for a bus.

What to do next

Make some speech balloons for the pictures.

MATCHING

25

Title:	Easy True Stories
Author:	Sandra Heyer
Publisher:	Longman Publishing Group, 1994
Available:	Copp Clark Limited, 2775 Matheson Blvd. East, Mississauga, Ontario, L4W 4P7 Phone: 1-800-263-4374
Price:	$19.50
ISBN:	0-8013-1089
Level:	basic/functional
Reviewer:	Lorrie Lane

Easy True Stories

Easy True Stories consists of 20 true stories adapted from a newspaper or magazine article. Each story includes a pre-reading page that tells the story by using drawings. Following each story, there are vocabulary, comprehension, discussion and writing exercises. There are some very effective suggestions for using this book included for the instructor, as well as more background information concerning each article.

One approach my students enjoy is when I have them develop their story from the drawings; I read the title and story to them after they are finished writing. They find it interesting to compare their version with the actual article. Another instructor often has a story exchange where two students tell each other a different story based on the same pictures.

Learners appreciate the fact that these are true human interest stories that are adult oriented. Students frequently comment, "I like this book 'cause I'd rather read true stories."

Each story is written in the present tense and is about one-half page, or less, in length. "The print is easy to read because it's a good size, and the stories aren't too long."

The drawings are very helpful for a beginning reader. They improve the student's ability to recall details of the story. One student said, "I can remember what happened in the story when I look at the pictures."

You may be interested in trying out the other books in this series. They are available at the same price and include:

- True Stories in the News
- More True Stories
- Even More True Stories

Sample Page

From *Easy True Stories* by Sandra Heyer
Reproduced by kind permission of Longman Publishing Group

Series Title:	Longman Classics Pacemaker Classics
Publisher:	Copp Clark Longman, 2775 Matheson Boulevard East, Mississauga, ON, L4W 4P7 Phone: 1-800-263-4374 Fearon/Janus /Quercus, Prentice Hall Canada, Inc. 1870 Birchmount Road, Scarborough, ON, M1P 2J7 Phone: 1-800-567-3800 Fax: 1-416-299-2529
Price:	Longman Classics: $5.95 Pacemaker Classics: $7.54
Level:	Pacemaker: functional Longman Classics Stages 3 & 4:functional/independent
Reviewer:	Joyce Vowles

Longman Classics and Pacemaker Classics

Teachers of adult literacy classes are always searching for age appropriate, high interest reading materials. In response, a number of publishers have introduced classic stories, rewritten for new readers.

Two series in particular have received favourable reviews from students and teachers alike: Longman Classics and Pacemaker Classics. The Literacy Materials Committee chose to review six titles selected from those available: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Dracula, Frankenstein, Huckleberry Finn, Jane Eyre, and Wuthering Heights.

Both series have a clear, uncomplicated layout with plenty of white space. Vocabulary is controlled, yet not juvenile.

Longman Classics are consistent in style and format. Stages 1 through 4 vary only in language and sentence complexity. Throughout, language is straightforward, yet not stilted, with a clear writing style. Print size is acceptable; however, the grey typeface on cream paper can be difficult to read. Lines are not quite double spaced, which looks nice, but adds to the potential for eyestrain.

One of the most attractive features of this series is the use of full colour BBC movie stills. The full page illustrations add much to the feel of the story by showing characters in period clothing and settings. Each book also includes a generous biography of the author, a glossary, chapter comprehension questions and more thought provoking question on the whole story at the end of the novel.

Pacemaker Classics have large, clear print that is distinctly black on white. Pen and ink sketches illustrate these stories. The stories are very close to the originals. The language is clear. The style is "literate". There is good variety in the sentence structure. Each book has a table of contents and list of characters. There are study guides available for each book.

Both series were recommended by both teachers and students. There are many more titles and there are taped versions for all of the Pacemaker and some of the Longman Classics. Any of these books would be a welcome addition to your classroom library.

Sample Page

From *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
Reproduced by kind permission of Copp Clark Longman

Chapter 1
Castle Dracula

Everything in Transylvania seemed very strange to Jonathan Harker. There was so much to tell Mina, the girl he was going to marry.

There were mountains, thick forests, and fast-flowing rivers. Castles stood on high rocks, and he hoped that Castle Dracula would be like them. The people were strange too; they were very kind and polite, but when he told them that he was going to see Count Dracula, they were afraid. At Bistritz the hotel keeper's wife had given him a cross.

"Please take it," she said. "There is danger at Castle Dracula."

Count Dracula's own carriage came to take him on the last part of the journey through the darkness. As the carriage climbed into the mountains, Jonathan saw the red eyes of wolves all round the carriage. And when the wolves came too close, the driver shouted at them as if they were his own dogs.

From Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Reproduced by kind permission of Fearon Globe

1 Me, Tom, and the Robber Gang

You don't know about me unless you have read a book by the name of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." That book was made by Mr. Mark Twain, and he told the truth, mainly.

Now this is the way that book winds up. My friend Tom and me found the money that the robbers hid in the cave, and it made us rich. We got six thousand dollars apiece—all gold. Well, Judge Thatcher, he took it and put it out at interest. It brought us a dollar a day apiece all the year round—more than a body could tell what to do with. Then the Widow Douglas, she took me for her son and said she'd civilize me. But it was rough living in a house all the time, seeing how awful regular and decent the widow was in her ways.

Title:	Perfect Copy
Publisher:	Logicus Incorporated
Available:	Logicus Incorporated, Brownsville Junction, Suite 205, Schomberg, Ontario, L0G 1T0
Price:	$195 each or 5/$495
Level:	functional to independent
Reviewer:	Lorrie Lane

Perfect Copy

Perfect Copy is a computer program concerned with grammar rules in these skill areas: beginning and ending punctuation, commas, other punctuation, capitals, numbers, easily confused words, apostrophes, abbreviations, subject-verb agreement, pronouns and irregular verbs.

Learners work independently to proof-read and make corrections in stories and letters. Students say, "I like making corrections on the computer. It's not messy." If required, assistance is available on the screen or by using a language rules handbook that is provided with the program.

Practice for each skill is provided in three levels. To master a specific skill level, the learner must have an average score of at least 90% on four articles.

This is a valuable tool in our program. Excellent progress details are maintained in the student record section. The program provides immediate feedback which both students and instructors appreciate. The students comment, "I know right away what my mark is."

On the Sample Page are two exercises on capital letters. The first, "Family Weekend", is from the easiest level; the second, "Our Winter Climb", is from the third and most difficult level. These articles illustrate the range of skill levels of Perfect Copy. At each level there are changes in line spacing, complexity of sentence structure, length of articles and number of rules included.

One of the most important comments by students is that "The paragraphs are interesting to read." This interest in the stories helps to motivate the student to work on Perfect Copy.

Sample Page

From *Perfect Copy*
Reproduced with kind permission of Logicus Incorporated

CA - J1 Family Weekend

my father and his brother Ferdinand are good friends.

they are part of a large spanish family and love to get together.

uncle Ferdinand lives in niagara, right on the shore of lake ontario.

when we visit, we enjoy watching the boats on the lake.

this friday we are going to visit uncle ferdinand.

We will spend easter weekend with him.

CA - A3 Our Winter Climb

one blustery friday, we drove South from our canadian home to challenge mount washington, in the united states. The weather forecast called for arctic-like 35-degrees below temperatures and 100-mile-per-hour gale force winds. The guide book from The appalachian mountain club suggests the following:

1. Extra layers of clothing
2. dry clothes–for afterwards
3. high energy food

our tour guide said, "the worst conditions here are approximately equal to the worst reported from antarctica." the idea of tackling this mountain in january rather than in the warmth of the Summer was to capture mount washington in its true wilderness state, free from the warm weather rock climbers.

upon arrival in pinkham Notch at the base of Mount washington, we signed our lives away after being outfitted with boots, crampons and ice axes. our canadian climbing party was given instructions on the best approach, and away we went.

Wow! what a way to spend a cold Winter day! if you would like information on this exciting one-day excursion call 603-555-7000, or write to:

sid miller, mountaineer
125 telemark Trail
north Conway, NH 12345

Title:	Canada Coast to Coast
Publisher:	Nelson Canada
Author:	Joan Acosta
Available:	1120 Birchmount Rd., Scarborough, ON, M1K 5G4 (416) 752-9200 1-800-268-2222 fax (416) 752-8101
Price:	$16.95
ISBN:	0-17-604257-1
Level:	basic/functional
Reviewer:	Jan Sawyer

Canada Coast to Coast

Canada Coast to Coast by Joan Acosta, the well-known editor of the first Coast to Coast, offers the new reader an opportunity to read about and explore Canada and Canadian culture. This reader/activity book has an inviting colourful cover, and the inside offers an attractive variety in layout, exercises and illustrations. The use of white space and the print size are sure to appeal to the beginning student.

There are two sections in this book. The first, *Canada from Coast to Coast*, begins with a few basic facts about Canada and is followed by a clear map depicting the provinces, territories and their capitals. Readers then start their journey across Canada on the west coast. Each province and territory is represented by a story. The second section, *Canadians from Coast to Coast* is comprised of stories that have been adapted from newspaper articles which show a cross-section of Canadian culture.

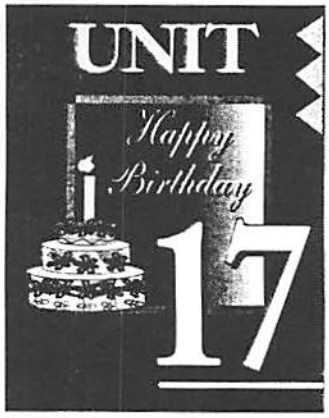
Rather than being divided into chapters, this book is separated into units. Every unit is preceded by pre-reading discussion starters that lead into a variety of exercises and activities ranging from word search exercises to student writing opportunities. There is an answer key provided at the end of the book. Many of the reviewers also complimented the use of illustrations throughout the text. They were helpful in discussion and provided good visual clues to the reader.

One of the reviewers felt that the book was too thin on its own and would need to be filled out with "other discussion, maps, and videos." There is a teacher's guide we did not review that may provide very useful supplementary ideas and materials. It gives additional activities as well as black line masters that can be photocopied.

Because Canada Coast to Coast was designed for the English as a Second Language student, it was field-tested in ESL as well as literacy classes. One literacy instructor stated "quite ESL, but great for early literacy classes" while an ESL instructor felt, "The culture content is valuable, and I feel that this book would be very useful to use with upper-beginner ESL students." Perhaps the final word should go to a student who said, "It's nice to read about far away places in Canada, because I'll probably never go there."

Sample Page

From *Canada Coast to Coast* by Joan Acosta
Reproduced by kind permission of Nelson Canada



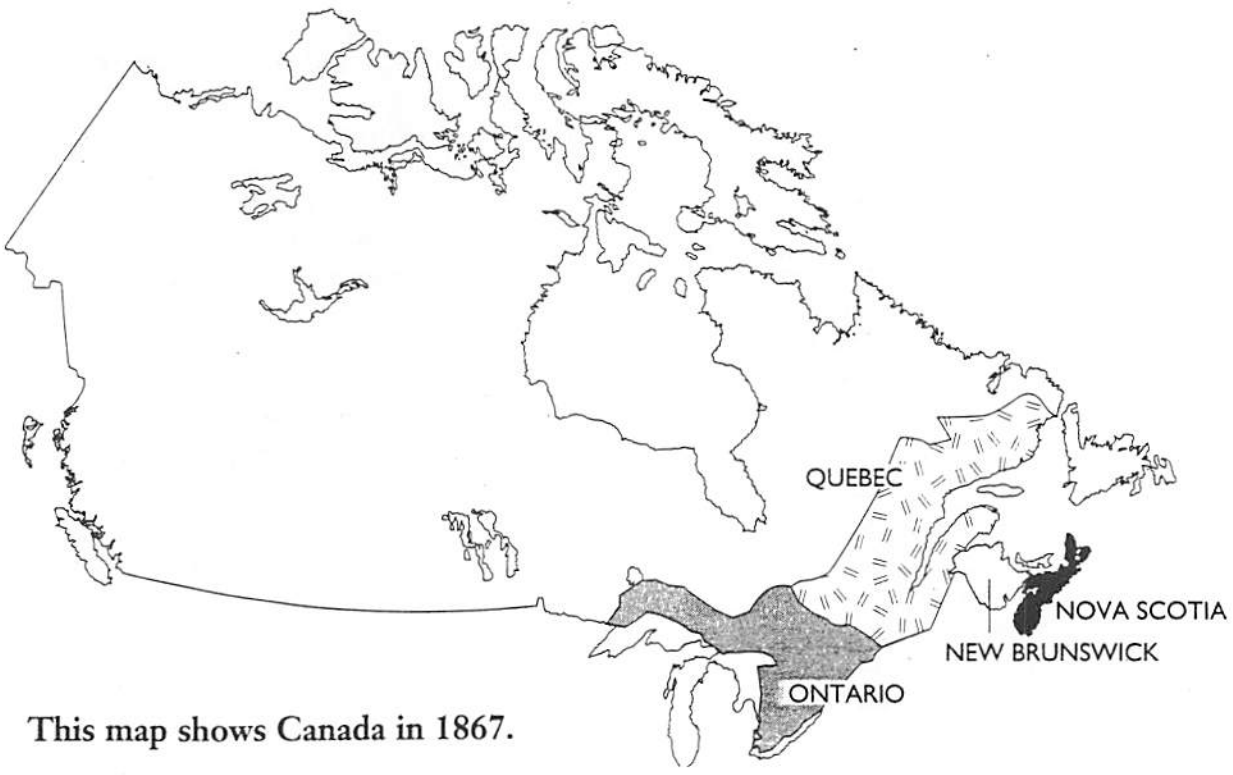
Canada's birthday is July 1

In the 1600s and 1700s, people came from England and France to explore North America. Some of these people stayed and started colonies.

On July 1, 1867, four colonies joined together to form Canada. The colonies became Canada's first provinces: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Quebec. The other provinces and territories joined Canada later.

We celebrate Canada's birthday on July 1. Many cities and towns have parades. Some places have fireworks in the evening.

■ ■ ■



This map shows Canada in 1867.

Title:	Grandfather Bear
Author:	told in Cree by Madeline Davis, Sr translated by Della Owens and Harriet Landry
Illustrator:	Donna Cameron
Publisher:	Twin Sisters Publishing
Available:	Muskoti Learning Centre, P.O. Box 160, Moberly Lake, B.C. V0C 1X0 Phone 1-604-788-9754 Fax 1-604-788-9347
Price:	$6.95
ISBN:	099696509-2-2
Level:	basic/functional
Reviewer:	Jan Weiten

Grandfather Bear

Grandfather Bear is an inspiring book that works at many different reading levels. Effective black and white drawings make up half of its 42 pages. Type size is adequate with ample white space.

This is a tale told by an elder of a First Nations community in B.C. A brief introduction guides readers to consider the symbolic nature of the story. It states, "Our elders say that each one of you has your own song within you." This charming story is a simple depiction of how one young Native girl has her special purpose in life revealed to her through the relationship with her "nature relative" - Grandfather Bear.

Learners can appreciate this book on a number of different levels. One of its most important functions could be to lead readers to consider the differences between literal and figurative meaning. Since, if taken literally, the story is a fantastic fairy tale, learners will want to examine both the story itself and its underlying message.

This book also works well as a narrative. It lends itself easily to summarizing plot, analyzing character, and describing setting. The story can also draw on readers' inferencing and predicting skills. Learners are eager to find out what will happen next - a sure sign of a good story. "It was good reading."

In addition, Grandfather Bear could serve as a springboard for exploring the traditional cultures and beliefs of First Nations people. The story shows the way one Native family lived and worked together, and the illustrations help us picture how the people dressed and lived. "It shows the true Native ways."

This book can also be used in the study and comparison of fables or legends from different cultures. "A legend talking about the truths of listening to right and wrong." "So many years ago...my mother told me stories where the animals talk."

Furthermore, it could be used to discuss feelings associated with the loss and recovery of children or the topic of family in general. Personal exploration is another important process which the book could encourage. Learners can look at their own gifts, "songs", and powers which might lead them to some revealing insights about themselves or their world.

Many readers agreed with the following comment: "This story is very moving to me. I would like to read more about this type of book or from this author."

Sample Page

From *Grandfather Bear* by Madeline Davis, Sr.
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The young girl saw a black bear (muskwa). She felt that the bear wanted her to follow him. She knew in her heart that the bear felt kindness toward her.

The bear told her that there was better berry picking further, so the girl started to follow him. As they walked, the bear used his sacred powers so they could not be followed. He led her away from where her mother was.

Soon the bear said, "My grandchild, we will find somewhere to live."

When the bear said 'my grandchild', the girl knew he was her grandfather. So the girl listened carefully to the bear. Whatever he instructed, she did.

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Series:	Real Lives
Titles:	see below
Publisher:	The Basic Skills Agency (formerly ALBSU), 1994
Available:	Avanti Books, 8 Parsons Green, Boulton Rd., Stevenage, England, SG1 4QG Phone: 011-44-1438-350155 Fax: 011-44-1438-741131
Price:	£2.00 each
Level:	basic/functional
Reviewer:	Helen Thomas

Real Lives

Sport:

- Muhammad Ali
- Ian Botham
- Martina Navratilova
  by Julia Holt
- George Best
  by Iris Howden
- Linford Christie
  by Mike Wilson

Film:

- Arnold Schwarzenegger
  by Julia Holt
- Clint Eastwood
- Marilyn Monroe
- Humphrey Bogart
- Elizabeth Taylor
  by Iris Howden

Politics:

- Sir Winston Churchill
- Mahatma Ghandi
- Adolf Hitler
- John F. Kennedy
  by Mike Wilson
- Martin Luther King
  by Julia Holt

Real Lives is a series of fifteen books written about movie stars, political leaders and athletes. Only Muhammad Ali was popular among the sports figures, but all the movie and political biographies were avidly read.

Each biography is sixteen pages long including the excellent photos. This length is very appealing as readers felt they were learning about interesting people quickly and enjoyably. Each story has its own particular viewpoint. In Marilyn Monroe there is the mystery of whether or not she was killed and by whom. Arnold Schwarzenegger "shows how anyone can be successful."

This series was popular with all the groups that field tested them. The large print and generous white space means that students are not intimidated by these books. The high quality, effective photographs attract their interest especially in people that they have heard of or seen in movies. There are colour photographs on the front covers and black and white photographs throughout the books.

The sentences are short, but the style is flowing, not choppy. Students consistently commented that the books were interesting because they were about real people. Some comments were: "I learned some things I didn't know"; "they gave the facts and were to the point."

From *Adolf Hitler* by Mike Wilson
Reproduced by kind permission of The Basic Skills Agency

Sample Page

The start of the First World War, in 1914,
was Hitler's escape.
He joined the Army.

Hitler was brave in the War,
and was awarded the Iron Cross.

But the army thought
he was a "know-all and grumbler".
He was still only a corporal
when the war ended in 1918.

The First World War ended in disaster
for Germany.

Many Germans felt shame and anger
when they lost the war.
They were poor and hungry,
and there were no jobs.

Hitler knew the time was right
to start to fight back.
He decided to become a politician.

Title:	SpellWell Bookmarks
Publisher:	Curriculum Associates
Available:	Curriculum Associates, Inc., 94 Asquith Avenue, Toronto, ON, M4W 1J8 Phone: 1-800-225-0248 Fax: 1-508-667-5706
Price:	100-pack $35.00
Order No:	SC6449 60 most often misspelled words SC5447 100 most often misspelled words SC6458 47 common contractions
Level:	basic and up
Reviewer:	Jan Sawyer

SpellWell Bookmarks

These bookmarks were a hit! They were field tested by all members of the Literacy Materials Committee and received a uniformly positive response.

Each of the three different bookmarks follows a basic format listing either 60 most often misspelled words, 100 most often misspelled words, or 47 common contractions. On the back of the bookmarks, there is a small space for students to add their own misspelled words. There is also a space where students write their name and grade. One reviewer suggested this section be covered to move away from a grade school feel.

These inexpensive goodies were distributed by teachers in a variety of ways: "silly prizes for word games, hand outs appropriate to students' specific area of difficulty, and as bookmarks."

The SpellWell Bookmarks were popular with the students and instructors found that students frequently referred to them since they were so readily available. One instructor noted that "students are often reluctant to write because of weak spelling skills, and handy references such as these may provide more confidence."

Sample Page

Actual size of each bookmark: 3" x 9.5"
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The Bulletin's Board

Democratic Rules of Order

This twenty page guide provides 37 Rules of Order to help groups run meetings in a democratic and efficient manner. This common sense booklet would be useful as a resource for instructors and tutors to help them explain general meeting procedures or run staff, classroom, learner events or any other type of meeting. Prices for this useful guide are $5.95 for one, $3.00 for 10-99 and $2.50 for over 100. *Democratic Rules of Order*, written by Fred and Peg Francis, is available from 3930 Hobbs Street, Victoria, BC, V8N 4C9, Phone: 1-604-477-0148 Fax: 1-604-477-0140.

You Make the Difference...A Guide to Helping Your Child Learn

The Hanen Centre has brought out a new guidebook, *You Make the Difference...A Guide to Helping Your Child Learn*, that helps parents connect with their young children in ways that foster the child's self esteem and learning. This book is written by Ayala Manolson with Barb Ward and Nancy Doddington. It has larger print, less writing and more white space than *It Takes Two To Talk*, reviewed in Bulletin #12, but uses a similar cartoon format. It is available from The Hanen Centre, 252 Bloor Street West, Suite 3-390, Toronto, ON, M5S 1V5. Phone: 1-416-921-1073 Fax: 1-416-921-1225.

New Ordering Address for Steck-Vaughn Materials

Steck-Vaughn Company materials are now available from Gage Educational Publishing Company, 164 Commander Boulevard, Scarborough, ON, M1S 3C7. Phone: 1-800-667-1115 Fax: 1-416-293-0846 Adult Education Extension 245

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LITERACY MATERIALS RECOMMENDATION FORM

Title _____

Author _____ **Publisher** _____

Level (please circle) ***Basic (0-3)** ****Functional (4-6)** *****Independent (7-9)**

Why do you recommend this title: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please attach copy of one page and table of contents

Recommended by: _____

_____

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LITERACY MATERIALS REQUEST FORM

What kind of material(s) would you like the Literacy Materials Committee to seek out, field test and review? Please include information about the content, level and format (book, video, software, etc.) you require: _____

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Requested by: _____

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Send completed forms to:

Literacy Materials Committee
c/o Literacy B.C.
622 – 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8

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